

recites that the first cylinder is a gripper cylinder which is one of the two alternative configurations of the first cylinder recited in claim 26. Claim 38 again recites that the first cylinder is a gripper cylinder. Claim 46 recites that the first cylinder is a folding blade cylinder.

The language of claim 26 does not require the first cylinder to be only one of a gripper cylinder and a spur needle cylinder. While claim 26 recites those two configurations as being possible configurations for the first cylinder, such configurations are both possible in the context of the first cylinder also being a folding blade cylinder. In fact, the recitation of the second cylinder as being a folding jaw cylinder, and cooperating with the first cylinder, would at least infer that the first cylinder is a folding blade cylinder. A folding jaw cylinder typically works with, or cooperates with a folding blade cylinder. The recitation in claim 26 of the first cylinder being a gripper cylinder or a spur needle cylinder does not preclude it from also being a folding blade cylinder.

The exclusion of claim 27 from the first group also is not understood. The Group I claims are directed to a folding apparatus and claim 26 recites a common frame supporting the first cylinder and the second cylinder as a first folding group. Claim 27, which should depend from claim 26, recites a second folding group in the same frame. The addition of the second folding group, again with first and second cooperating cylinders, is not believed to be a special technical feature which would make it directed to a separate invention.

Reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement and an early and favorable Office Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Holger RATZ  
Rudolf STÄB  
Applicants

JONES, TULLAR & COOPER, P.C.  
Attorneys for Applicant

  
Douglas R. Hanscom  
Reg. No. 26,600

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JONES, TULLAR & COOPER, P.C.  
P.O. Box 2266 Eads Station  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
(703) 415-1500  
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